

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Along with the present response, Applicants are submitting an Associate Power of Attorney relevant to prosecution and transaction of business with respect to the above-identified application.

Claims 1-29 are pending the present application. Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Potucek et al. '358. Claims 26-29 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nichani '343. Claims 10-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Potucek et al. '358 further in view of Dawe '158.

With reference to the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Potucek et al. '358, the reference to Potucek et al. '358 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claim 1.

Claim 1 sets forth a method for reducing the effect of bleed-through on a captured image. The method comprises the steps of illuminating a physical medium with light having a first illumination quality; recording a first image of the physical medium; illuminating the physical medium with light having a second illumination quality; recording a second image of the physical medium; and combining the first image and the second image to form a captured image. Claim 1 further requires that a difference between the first and second images represent a bleed-through of at least one of an image, text and a mark on the first side of the medium to a second side of the medium, which is subtracted out to reduce the bleed-through.

The reference to Potucek et al. '358 is not believed to show or suggest the specific method of claim 1, wherein first and second lights are illuminated on a medium so as to provide for first and second images which includes a bleed-through image, such as a difference between the images represents a bleed-through of at least one of an image, text and a mark on a first side of the medium to a second side of the medium. The reference to Potueck et al. '358 is concerned with detecting defects such as scratches through the use of illumination light provided at predetermined angles. This is believed to be different than the invention as set forth in claim 1 wherein a bleed-through of an image, a mark or text on a first side of a medium towards a second side of the medium is reduced through the use of the claimed method; wherein a first light and second light is used to illuminate the medium to create first and second

images that are subsequently combined to form a captured image where the bleed-through effect has been reduced.

Accordingly, the reference to Potucek et al. '358 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claim 1.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied reference.

Claim 7 relates to a digital file tangibly embodied in a computer readable medium which like claim 1 requires the combination of a first image and a second image created by the illumination of a physical medium, wherein the difference between the images represents a bleed through of at least one of an image, text and a mark on a first side of the medium to a second side of the medium which is subtracted out to reduce the bleed through.

For the reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, the reference to Potucek et al. '358 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the features of claim 7.

Claims 8-9 depend from claim 7 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied reference. Further, claim 8 has been slightly amended to correct a minor informality with respect to consistent terminology concerning the first illumination quality.

Therefore, the reference to Potucek et al. '358 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claims 1-9.

Referring to the rejection of claims 26-29 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nichani '343, the reference to Nichani '343 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claim 26. More specifically, claim 26 relates to a method of correcting bleed-through in a captured image that includes the steps of obtaining information indicative of a first image density and a second image density of an image formed on a physical medium; comparing the information indicative of the first image density with the information indicative of the second image density to determine what portions of the information are due to bleed-through; and altering the portions of the information that are due to bleed-through to form a corrected image.

The reference to Nichani '343 relates to a method and system for detecting the presence of a defect or non-conforming object of unknown shape within a semi-opaque enclosure. Therefore, in Nichani '343, a light wave is used to separate out different aspects of an image causing an object to stand out in relation to the background of the image so as to locate the object within a semi-opaque enclosure. This is different than the method of claim 26 wherein the

information indicative of image density is obtained from an image formed on a physical medium as opposed to an object or image within a semi-opaque enclosure. Therefore, the reference to Nichani '343 is not believed to show or suggest the features of the present invention as required by claim 26.

Accordingly, the reference to Nichani '343 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the features of claim 26.

Claims 27-29 depend from claim 26 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggest in the applied reference to Nichani '343. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

Referring to the rejection of claims 10-25 under 35 USC 103(a) as being patentable over Potucek et al. '358 in view of Dawe '158, Applicants respectfully reverse this rejection as follows:

Statement of Common Ownership:

The present application and the primary reference to Potucek et al. '358, were at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Applied Science Fiction, Inc.

As such, and in view of 35 USC 103(c) as amended by the American Inventors Protection Action (AIPA) enacted November 29, 1999, Potucek et al. '358 which is a 102(e) reference does not qualify as prior art in obviousness rejection under 35 USC 103 in new or continuing applications. It is noted that the present application was filed after November 29, 1999, and thus, is subject to the new statute. Therefore, Potucek et al. '358 should be removed as prior art in this particular rejection.

Accordingly, claims 10-25 are believed to be allowable over the combination of Potucek et al. '358 and Dawe '158.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1-29 are patentable, and a favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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